

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating physical human interactions over a communications network comprising:

~~detecting physical contact with~~ performing an action on a first model by a first user located at a sending system, said first model representing at least a portion of a human body including at least one among a human head, a human face, a human back and an entire human body, wherein said first model incorporates one or more ~~contact~~ sensors, and wherein the action of the first user includes at least one of a body movement of the first user and a change in facial expression of the first user;

~~detecting physical movement of said portions or locations on the first model to which the first user applied force and an amount of force applied over time by each sensor, each sensor being configured to generate and send data when a force is detected, the generated data specifying a time the force was detected, the amount of force detected, and the body part to which force was applied with one or more optical sensors located at said sending system, wherein the physical movement of said first user includes at least one of a body movement of said first user and a change in facial expression of said first user;~~

~~generating data from said sensors specifying the physical contact and the physical movement;~~

collecting and analyzing the data generated by each sensor and determining the at least one action intended by said first user indicated by the generated data;

encoding the data into one or more messages having an intermediate data format
for transmitting the determined action over [[a]] the communications network to a
receiving system;

receiving and interpreting the one or more messages by the receiving system to
determine the action specified by the one or more messages; and

simulating the action by performing said action on a second user at the receiving
system using a second model ~~and~~ by activating one or more actuators incorporated in the
second model ~~according to the physical movement~~, said second model representing at
least said portion of said human body, ~~wherein said second model incorporates one or~~
~~more actuators.~~

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, after said determining
step, converting the data to markup language formatted data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of processing the
markup language formatted data in the receiving system to identify the action.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the markup language
formatted data specifies at least one actuator movement to be implemented by the second
model at the receiving system and an amount of force to be applied in the at least one
actuator movement.

6-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, said simulating step further comprising the step of translating the action into instructions for activating at least one actuator; and activating the at least one actuator in accordance with the instructions.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting physical contact of the second model by a second user, wherein said second model incorporates one or more sensors;
generating data from said sensors specifying the physical contact of the second model;
determining at least one action intended by the second user indicated by the generated data;
transmitting the determined action over a communications network to the sending system; and
simulating the action by performing said action on the first user at the sending system using the first model, wherein said first model incorporates one or more actuators.

10-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said generated data specifies a time when a force was detected, the amount of said force, and a location on said human body to which said force was applied.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said action intended by said first user includes at least one among an embrace, a slap on the back, and a pat on the back.

25-27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a graphical user interface, within said graphical user interface said first user can select human actions or processing tasks, wherein said human actions include at least one among “touch the face”, “touch arm”, and “embrace” and said processing tasks include at least one of “opening an audio channel” and “opening a video channel”.

29-30. (Cancelled).